

From: Tad Siminitz
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/7/01 9:11am
Subject: Microsoft and the Department of Justice

I am a North Carolina citizen and employee of one the largest U.S. high technology companies, IBM. I am writing this letter not on behalf of IBM, but to voice my personal opinion and complete disagreement with the decision by the U.S. Department of Justice to lighten any punitive damages on Microsoft regarding the anti trust case.

Most people who make a living in the technical computer profession would be of the same opinion that Microsoft has, for several years, repeatedly practiced business in a unfair manner. What Microsoft has done to Netscape, not to mention some of IBM's products, certainly exceeds the boundaries of fair play, by anyone's definition. To go virtually unpunished and only suffer the imposition of some lightweight rules regarding future conduct is like getting lashed with a wet spaghetti noodle.

Consumers are not the only ones to suffer at the hands of these predatory business practices, that seem to be standard operating procedure at Microsoft. Sure IBM, SUN, and other corporations are large and diverse enough to endure illegal tactics on a product by product basis. However, many smaller companies typically just have to fold up shop and go home when confronted with these 'dirty pool' techniques.

What current economic or other situation may have influenced a quicker and less severe penalty is thwarting the natural advancement of technology, despite Microsoft's continual claims they would be 'inhibited from innovating'. These DOJ decisions are not in the best interests for technical professionals and entrepreneurs, nor for consumers of software products.

In the areas of software development the United States continues to be the dominating and most advanced presence world wide. Many of us are fearful this advantage will be lost eventually should we continue to turn our eyes from these all out assaults on free trade.

Thank you for your consideration in doing what is right and fair on this matter,

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